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U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/720,368
Docket No. US6655.V0128421
Amendment and response to 11/29/2005 Office Action

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II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 1 is rejected as indefinite "because of the screw valve in line 3 of the claim, a safety valve and a screw cap together does not make a screw valve." Claim 10 is rejected as indefinite because of the word "may" in line 7. Claim 12 is rejected as indefinite "because of 'safety valve and check valve' in lines 1 and 2, the term safety valve is a safety valve because of the check valve and to separate the two as in claim 12 is indefinite." Claims 2-9, 11, and 13-14 are rejected for depending on a rejected base claim.

Claims 1 and 10 have been cancelled, but the required corrections have been incorporated into newly independent claims 3 and 12. Claims 3 and 12, indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under this section, have now been rewritten to independent form and thus are no longer dependent upon a rejected base claim. The corrections required for claims 1 and 10 have been incorporated into claims 3 and 12. Claim 12 has been further amended to clarify that the check valve is part of, not separate from, the safety valve. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Entry of these amendments and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 3 and 12 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 13 have been amended to depend from newly independent claim 12. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Because claims 11 and 13, as amended, and claim 14 depend from claim 12, which is now in condition for allowance, claims 11, 13, and 14 are now in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11, 13, and 14 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 2, 4, and 6-9 have been amended to depend from newly independent claim 3. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Because claims 2, 4, and 6-9, as amended, depend from claim 3, which is now in condition for allowance, claims 2, 4, and 6-9, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 4, and 6-9 is therefore respectfully requested.

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III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lau. Claims 1 and 15 have been cancelled. Claim 2 has now been amended to depend on newly independent claim 3 and claims 16 and 18 have now been amended to depend on newly independent claim 17. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Because claim 2, as amended, depends from newly independent claim 3, which is now in condition for allowance, and claims 16 and 18, as amended, depend from newly independent claim 17, claims 2, 16, and 18 are also in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 16, and 18 is therefore respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lau in view of Morton. Claims 10, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lau in view of Cavenagh. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from newly independent claim 3. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Because claim 7, as amended, depends from newly independent claim 3, which is now in condition for allowance, claim 7 is now in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been cancelled. Claims 11 and 13 have been amended to depend from newly independent claim 12. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Because claims 11 and 13 depend from newly independent claim 12, which is now in condition for allowance, claims 11 and 13 are also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 13, as amended, is therefore also respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

Claims 1, 5, 10, 15, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11-14, and 16-18 have been amended. A replacement paragraph has been supplied for the Abstract. No new matter is presented by these amendments. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-19, as amended, are now in condition for allowance, which action is now requested. For this reason, and in view of the foregoing arguments, the Applicant believes that

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this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. Should there remain any unresolved issues, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Norma E. Henderson, Applicant's Attorney, at 603-225-4331, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,
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March 23, 2006

Date

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